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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LaSata and Jelinek honor local Woman

Luella Thomas receives special tribute for Michigan Works Alumni Award

State Sen. Ron Jelinek and Rep. Charlie LaSata presented a special tribute to Luella Thomas at the Capitol for receiving the Michigan Works Alumni Award.

Thomas joined the dislocated worker program after she was unable to find a new job in the post 9-11 market. Thanks to the training she received through Michigan Works, she now has a job as an employee services specialist. In this position she helps the unemployed with resume building, assists in job searches and improves interviewing skills.

"Now I help people that have lost their jobs," Thomas said.

LaSata and Jelinek are impressed with Thomas' can-do attitude.

"Luella's hard work and dedication are great assets to our community," said LaSata, R-St. Joseph. "It was evident in talking with her that she deeply cares about the people she is helping. I congratulate Luella on her achievements and wish her continued success."

Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, said: "Luella's success is a great example of how programs that teach essential job skills can help people find fulfilling careers. Michigan Works helps people help themselves and lays the foundation for long term success."

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Michigan Works helps participants set and achieve goals through training programs, placement assistance and labor exchange services. Skilled job seekers are matched with employers to benefit everyone. The alumni awards recognize outstanding graduates of the Workforce Investment Act and Work First programs.

Editor's Note: A photo of Rep. Charlie LaSata and Sen. Ron Jelinek presenting Luella Thomas a tribute for her achievement in the Berrien-Cass-VanBuren Michigan Works program is available on the Senate Majority Photowire at www.senate.state.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/.